

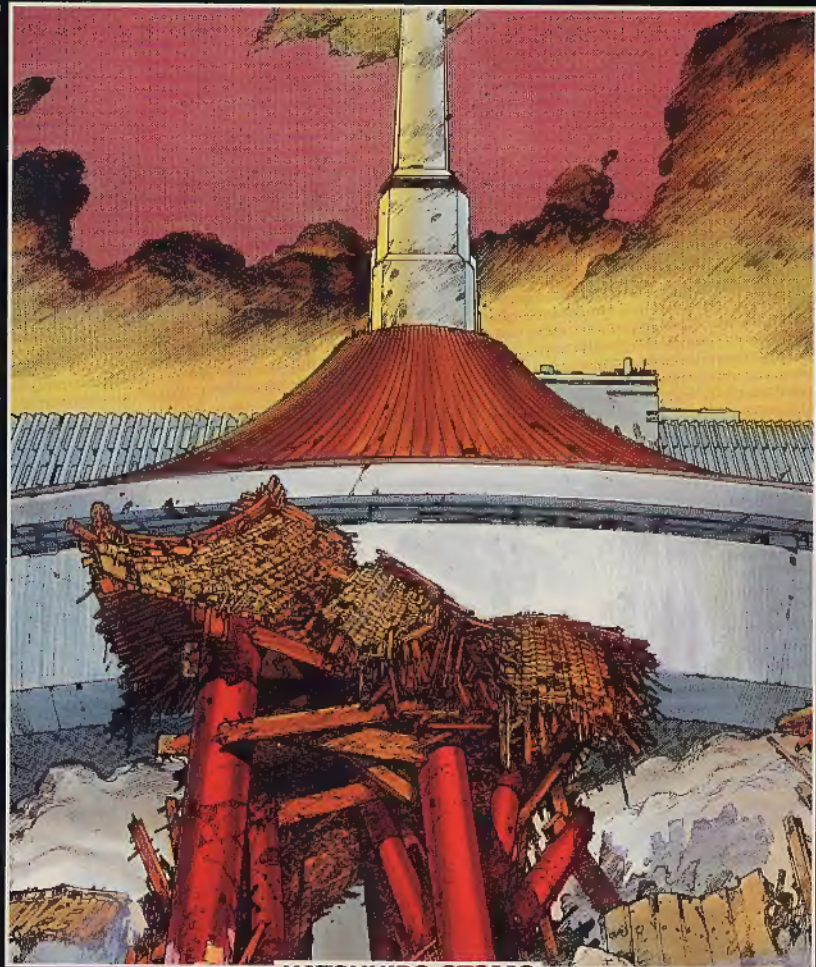
AKIRA

27

TM



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO

AKIRA™ Vol 1, No. 27

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 27

THE GRAND CONVOCATION

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—led by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members include **Kay**, **Ryu**, and **Chiyoko**.

The **Colonel** had a number of psychic children under his control. Each is identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masanu**—Numbers 25 and 27—and the blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—who once led the resistance and now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, once Kaneda's close friend, but now his greatest enemy.

Tetsuo lost his arm to a laser blast from the military satellite SOL and has used telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic left arm.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28—

Akira—a quiet boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep forty years ago, when he started the third world war with a mental blast. He was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo**. Shortly thereafter, he responded to an emotional trauma by again devastating the re-created city of Neo-Tokyo. Japan now exists in a state of emergency, with the forces of the army and the resistance scattered, the military's formidable "caretaker robots" patrolling the streets, and new powers and allegiances arising within.

In the western part of the Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. To increase the empire's power, **Tetsuo** uses drugs and training to develop psychic abilities in certain of their subjects. Among their



Kai



Lady Miyako



Kay



Tetsuo

numerous followers is a dapper assistant determined at all costs to destroy **Lady Miyako**, who offers sanctuary to any who come to her eastern shrine.

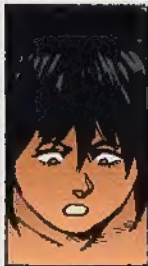
The Empire is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world. All of the spies except **Lieutenant Yamada**—who takes temporary shelter with **Ryu**—are killed. **Ryu** wants to join with and help **Yamada**, but soon after, **Tetsuo** meets the pair and reveals that **Yamada** has come to kill **Akira**. The spy decides to separate from his persistent would-be ally and go his own way.

The **Colonel** is determined to kill **Tetsuo** to atone for bringing about what he believes could become another **Akira**. At this same time, **Tetsuo** is trying to master his own weaknesses and his powers, so that he might control **Akira's** awesome might. Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako** and her psychically gifted monks are caring for **Masaru** and **Kiyoko**, who are sick with withdrawal from the drug which augments and channels mental powers. They await the return of **Kaneda** and his friend **Kay** and **Chiyoko**—both of whom were wounded in battle with **Tetsuo's** follow-

ers. **Lady Miyako** is particularly concerned about **Kay**, because although **Kay** lacks native telepathic abilities, the girl is a powerful medium for the talents of others.

Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists assembles. They pool their knowledge of the **Akira** project, code-named **Juvenile A**. Their data indicates that the effect of **Akira's** power is like that of the Big Bang and that the most recent blast (which was one of **Tetsuo's**) lacked the scope and dimension of the ones **Akira** caused.

The scientists are aghast when they learn that the world's armies have amassed an **Akira Assassination Corps**. They are even more upset by the knowledge that the soldiers are sure to be slaughtered by the inconceivable might of their enemy. Almost as if in confirmation of this, **Tetsuo** decides to pay a visit to his "fan club." During a flight exercise, the boy casually destroys a plane, killing the pilot. Then he taunts the scientists of **Juvenile A** for their limited ideas and aspirations before disappearing in a burst of destructive telekinetic energy.



Kaori



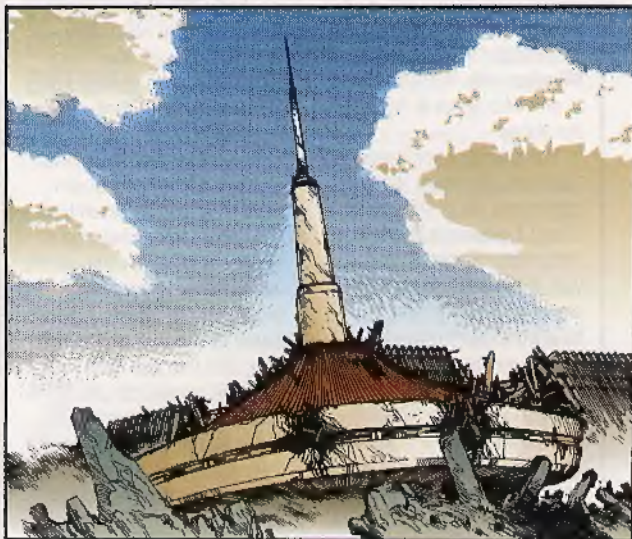
Akira

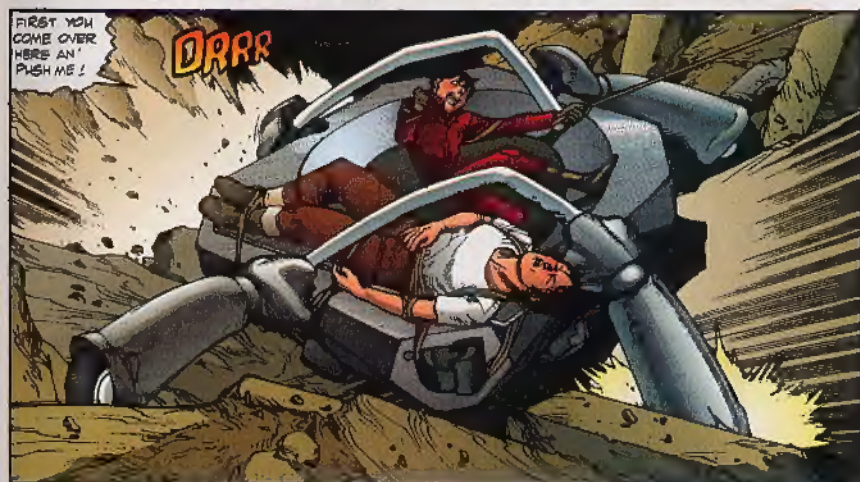


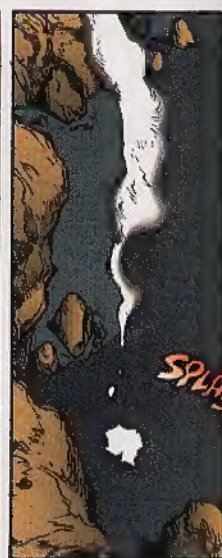
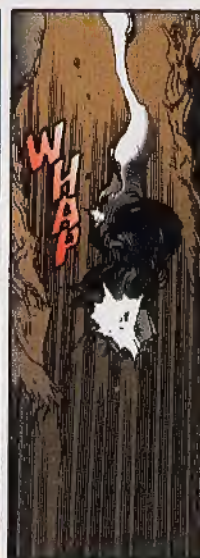
The Colonel

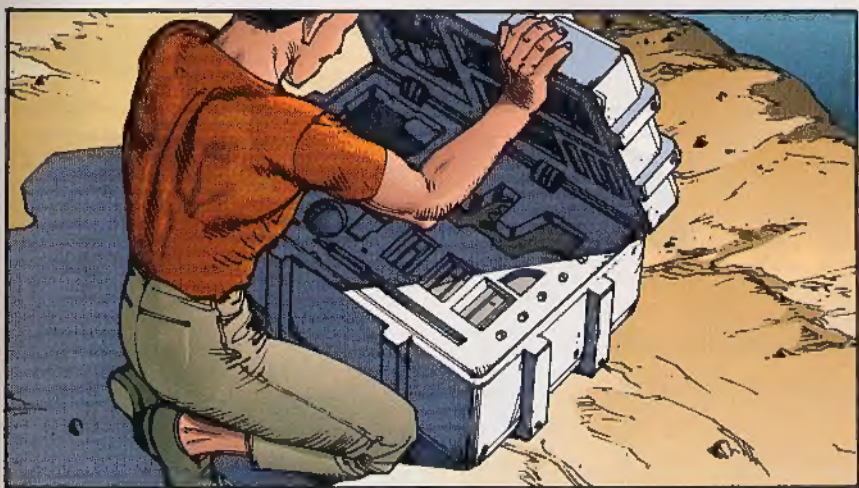
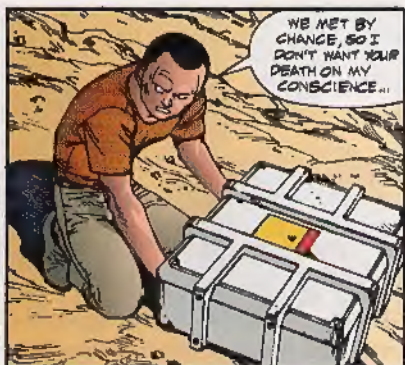


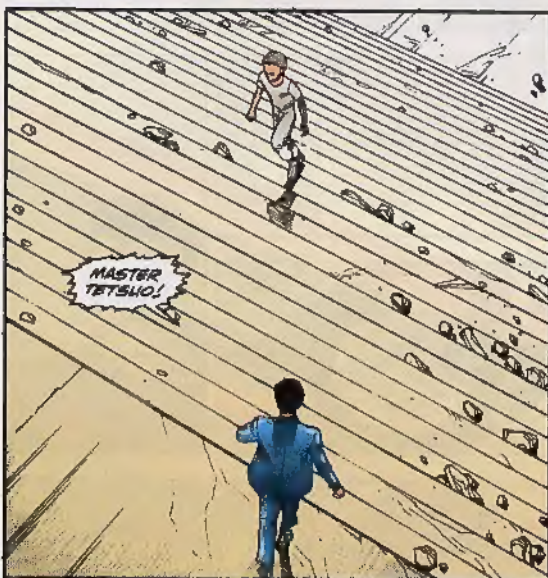
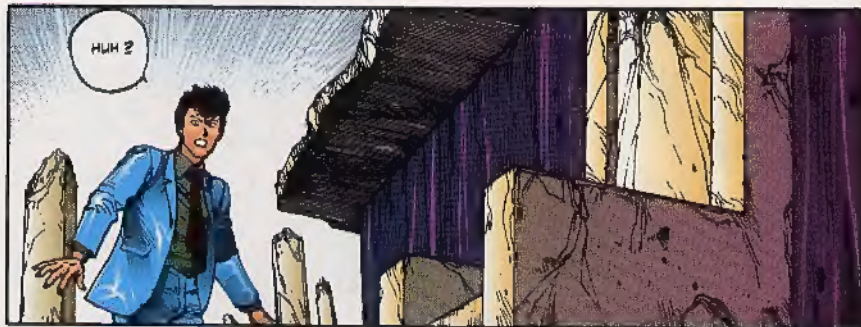
Kaneda













...WHAT?



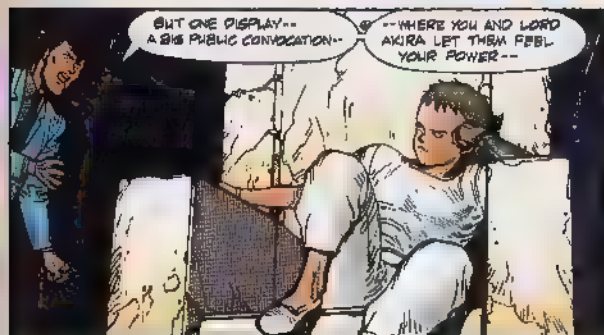
YOU'RE ASKING FOR A PUBLIC MEETING?

YES... YESSIR!



MIYAKO'S INFLUENCE IS BEING FELT THROUGHOUT OUR EMPIRE.

SOME OF OUR SUBJECTS ARE WEAK AND CONFUSED. THEY'RE BEING LED ASTRAY.

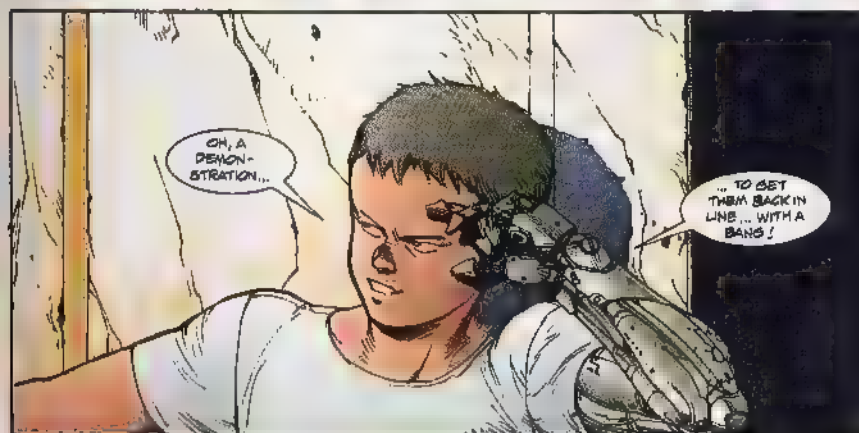


BUT ONE DISPLAY-- A BIG PUBLIC CONVOCATION--

--WHERE YOU AND LORD AKIRA LET THEM FEEL YOUR POWER--

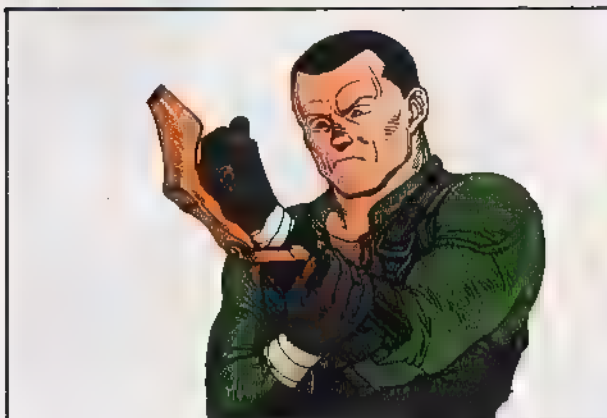
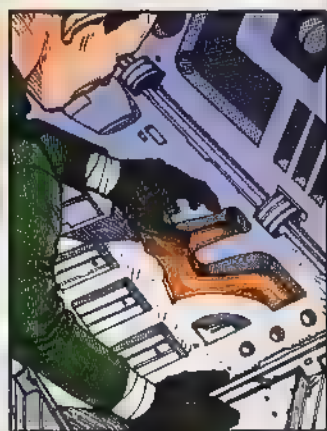
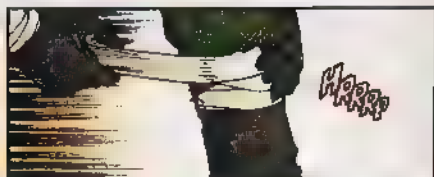
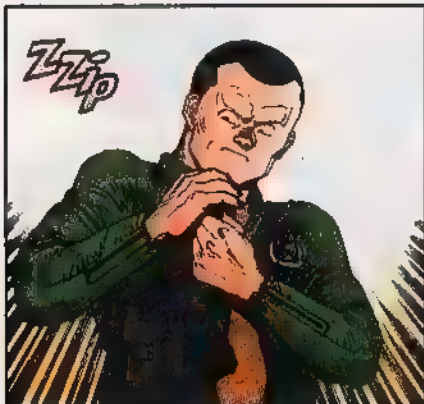


-- THAT WOULD SHOW THEM! AND HUMBLE THEM!

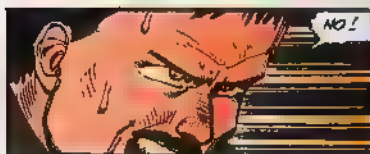
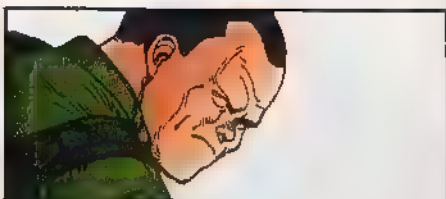
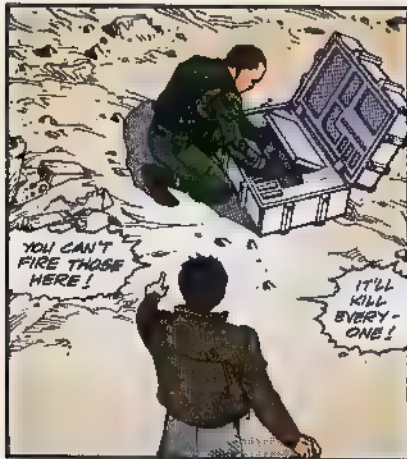


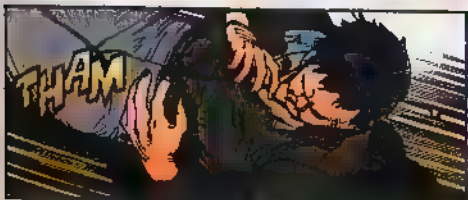
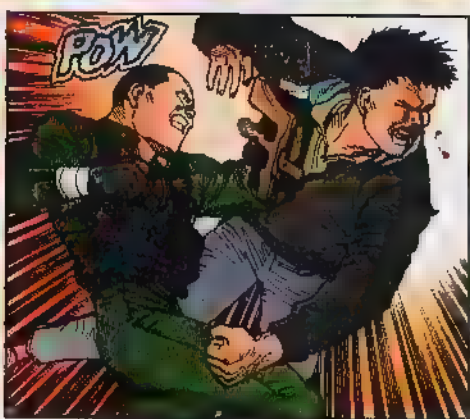
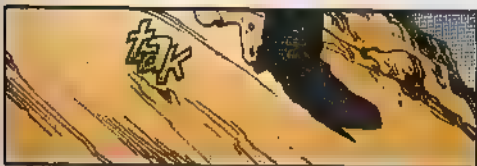
OH, A DEMONSTRATION...

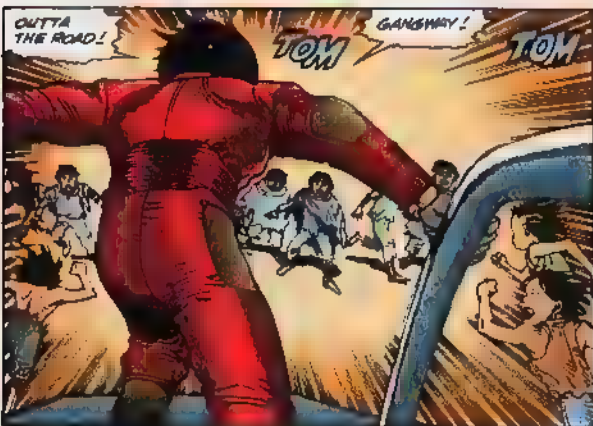
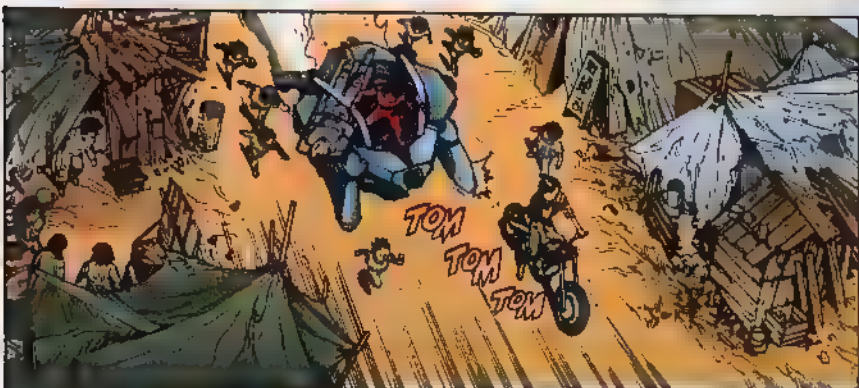
... TO SET THEM BACK IN LINE... WITH A BANG!

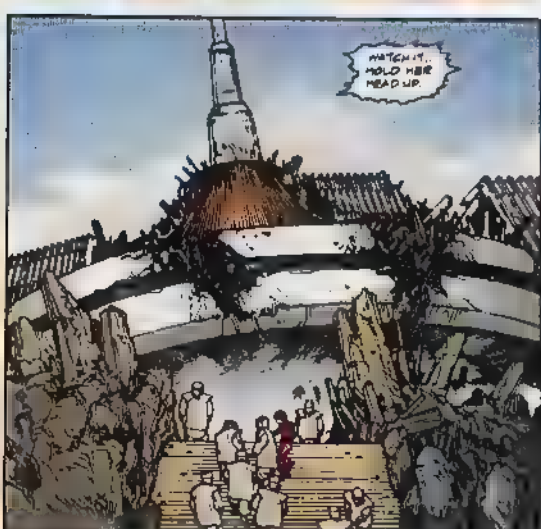
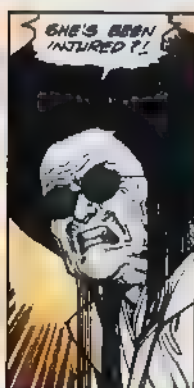


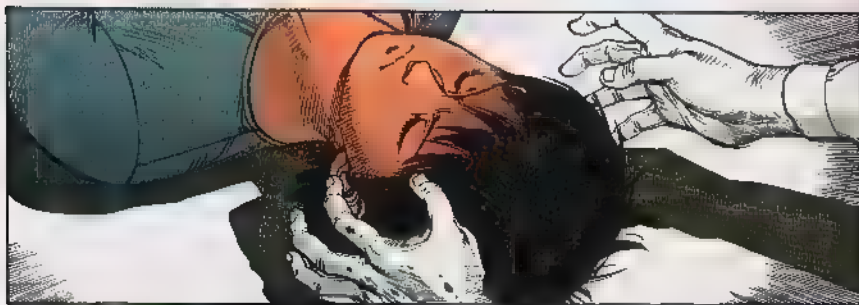
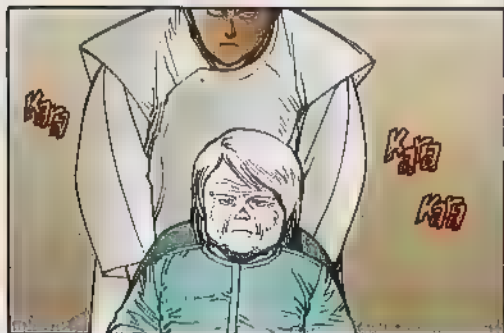
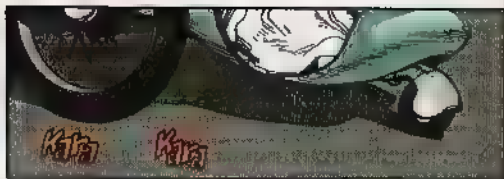
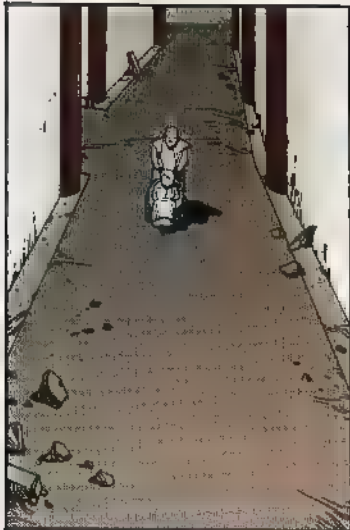










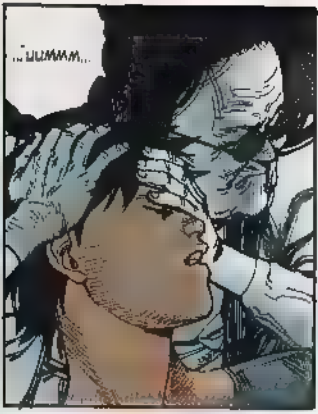


WHAT'S
HAPPENING?
WILL SHE
BE OKAY?

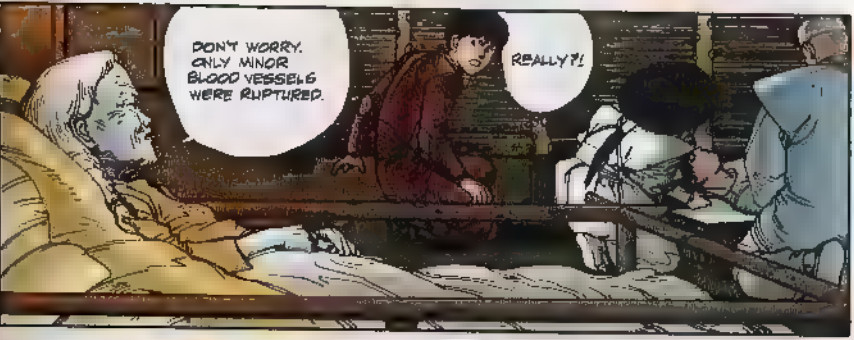


LADY
MIYAKO
IS HEALING
HER.

NOW,
BE
SILENT.



...UUMMM...



DON'T WORRY.
ONLY MINOR
BLOOD VESSELS
WERE RUPTURED.

REALLY?!



IS SHE
REALLY GONNA
MAKE IT?

THE WOUND
IS ALREADY
CLOSED.

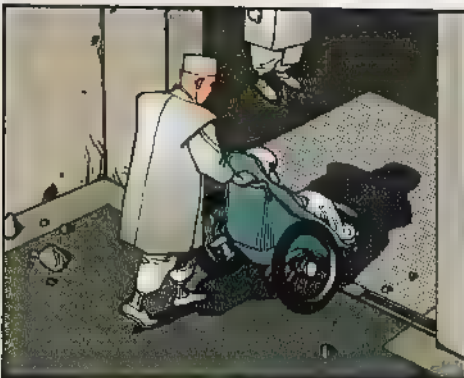
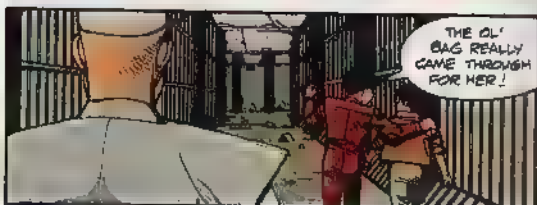


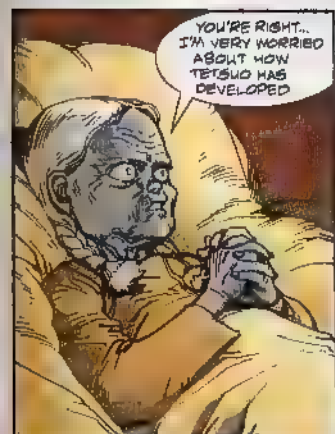
KAY...

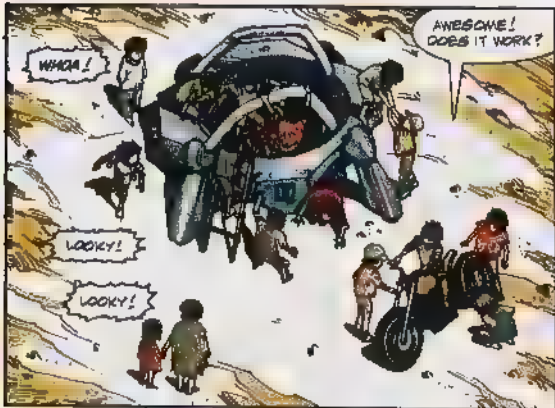


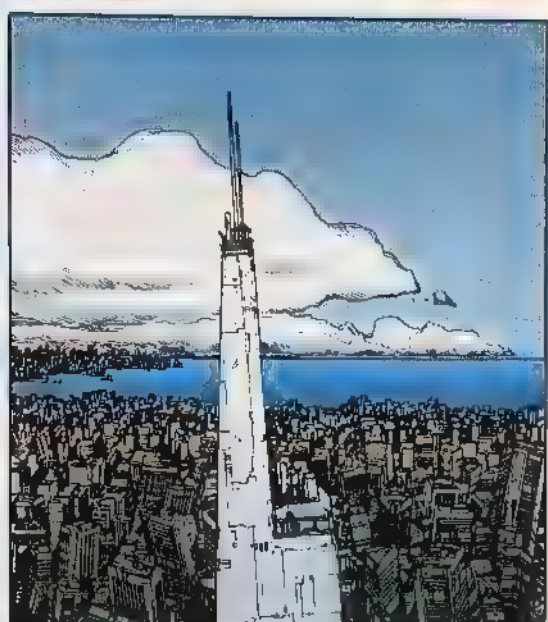
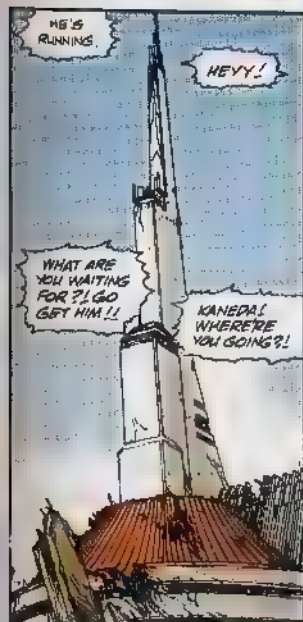
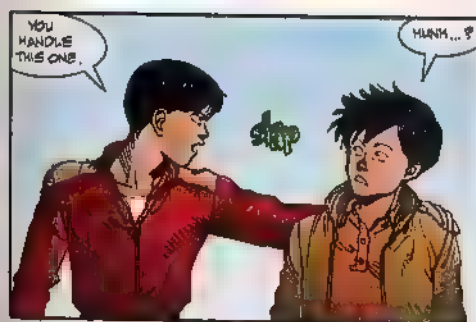
IT WILL TAKE
SOME TIME FOR
THE BLOOD IN
THE VENTRICLES
OF HER BRAIN
TO BE RE-
ABSORBED...

...BUT
SHE'LL BE
FINE.

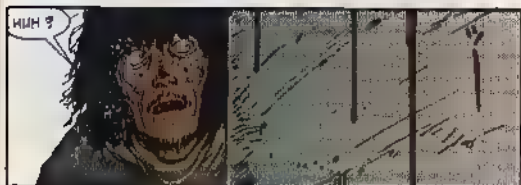


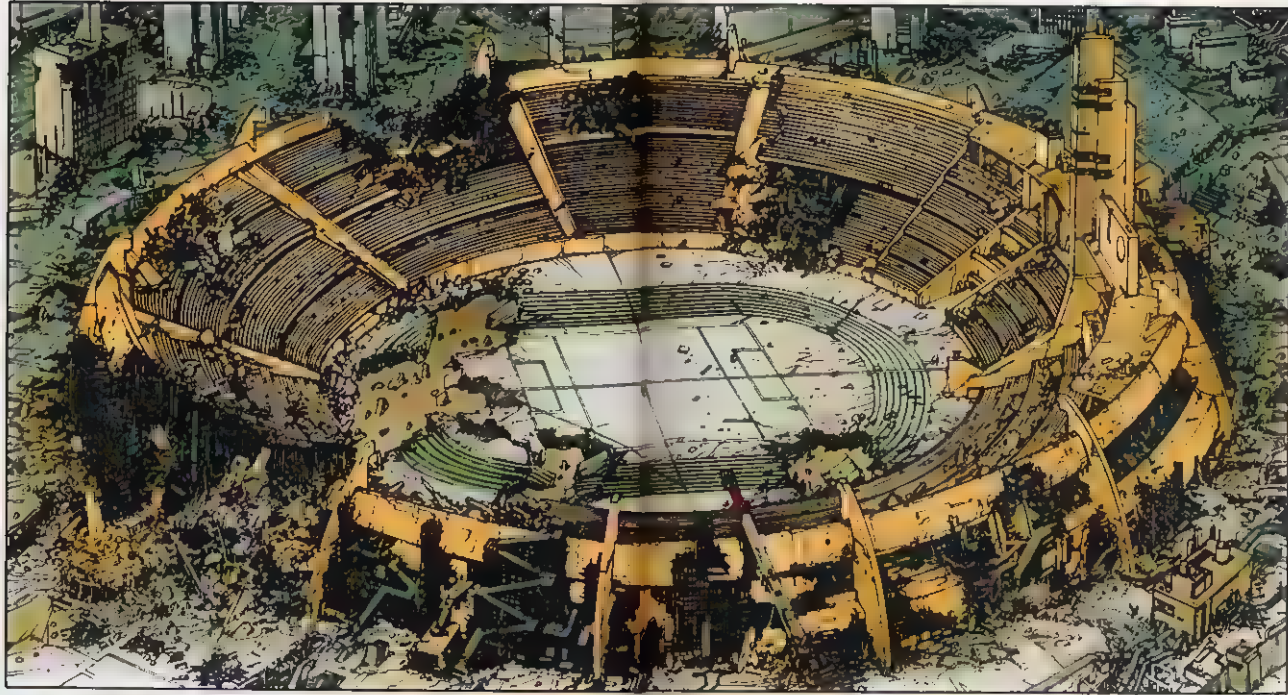














HEAR YE!

HEAR YE!

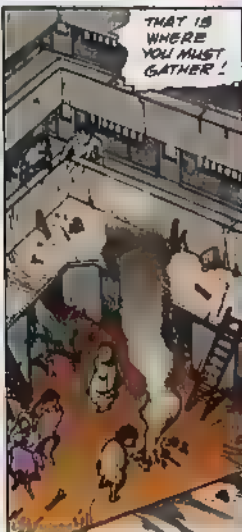
ATTENTION, ALL
SUBJECTS OF
THE GREAT TOKYO
EMPIRE!



EVERYONE IS
SUMMONED TO
ATTEND OUR GRAND
CONVOCAION! THERE
SHALL BE NO
EXCEPTIONS!



WE WILL
CONVENE
AT THE NEO
TOKYO
OLYMPIC
STADIUM!



THAT IS
WHERE
YOU MUST
GATHER!



SHARE THE
MOMENT OF
SUPREME BLISS
WITH OUR GREAT
LORD AKIRA!

DON'T BE MISLED BY OUR OLD ENEMY, MIYAKO!

NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO UNITE --

--UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR GREAT LORD AKIRA.



THE CONVOCAION MUST SUCCEED!



LORD AKIRA IS COUNTING ON HIS FAITHFUL SUBJECTS ... INCLUDING YOU, YOU LITTLE SHIT!

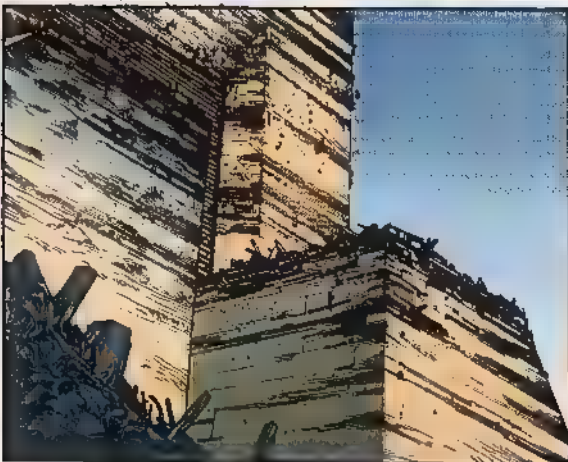
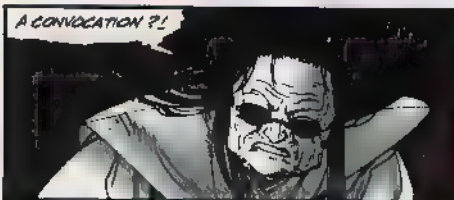
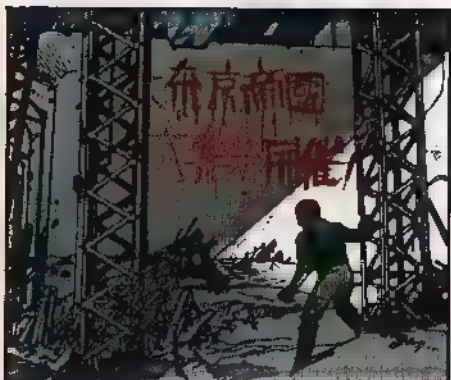


THOSE WHO CAN WORK, HELP WITH THE CONSTRUCTION!

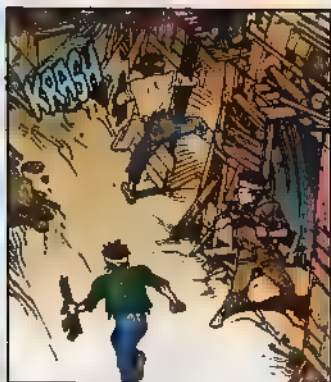
THOSE WHO CAN SPEAK, GO OUT AND SPREAD THE WORD!

IF EVERY INDIVIDUAL PITCHES IN TO HELP, WE CAN SUCCEED!

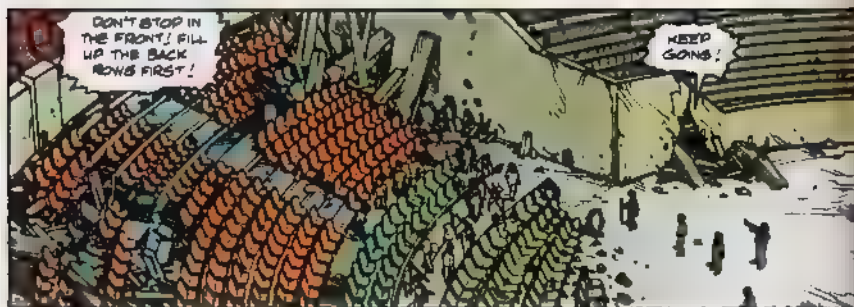
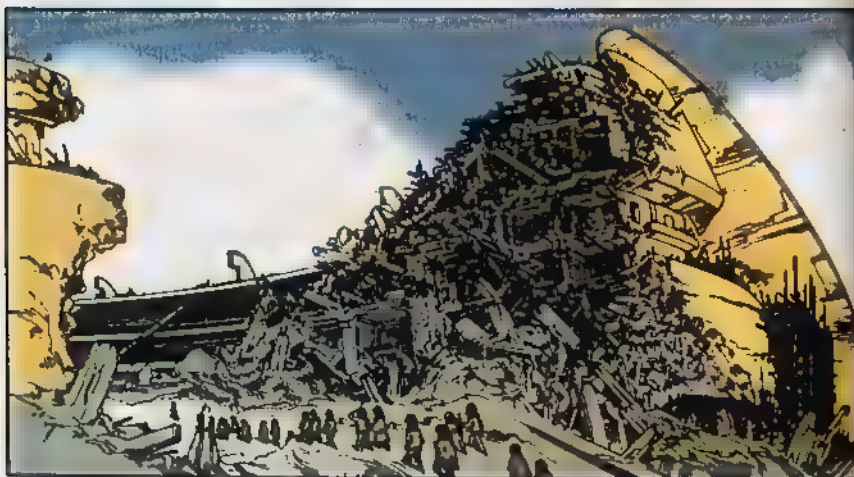


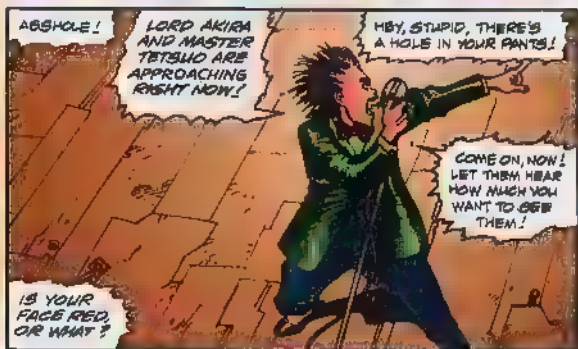
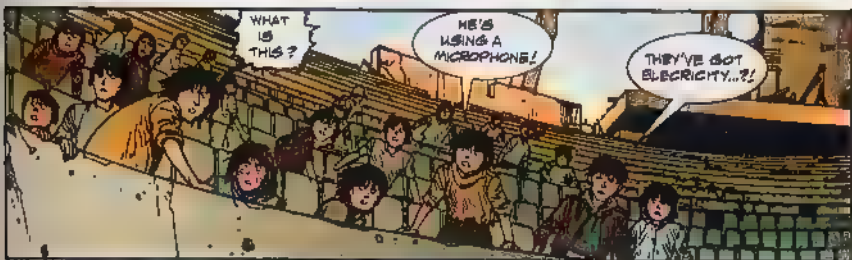
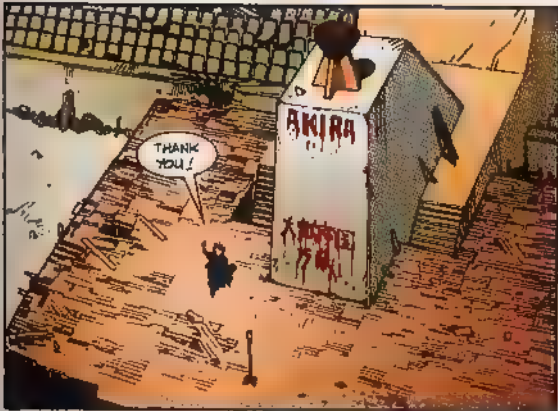


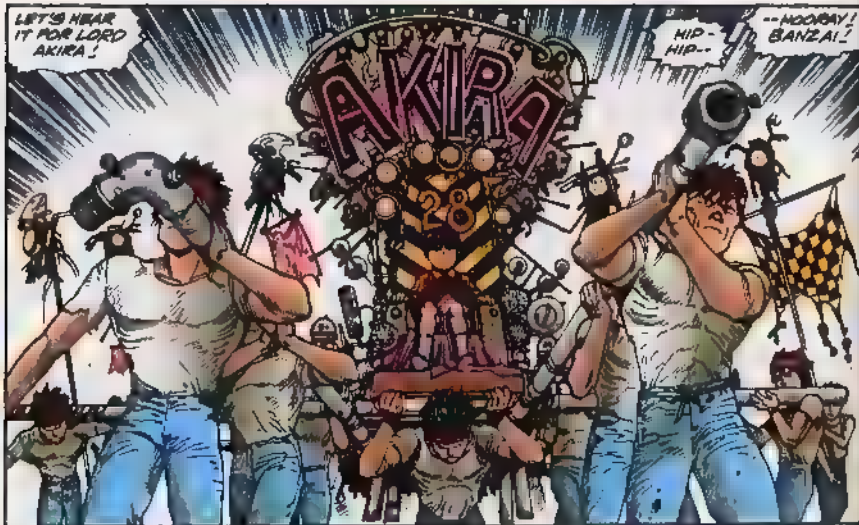


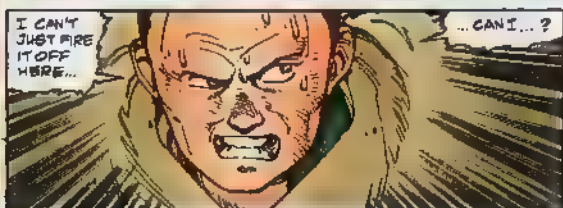
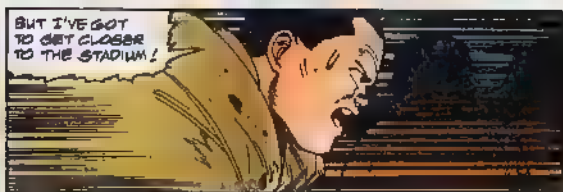


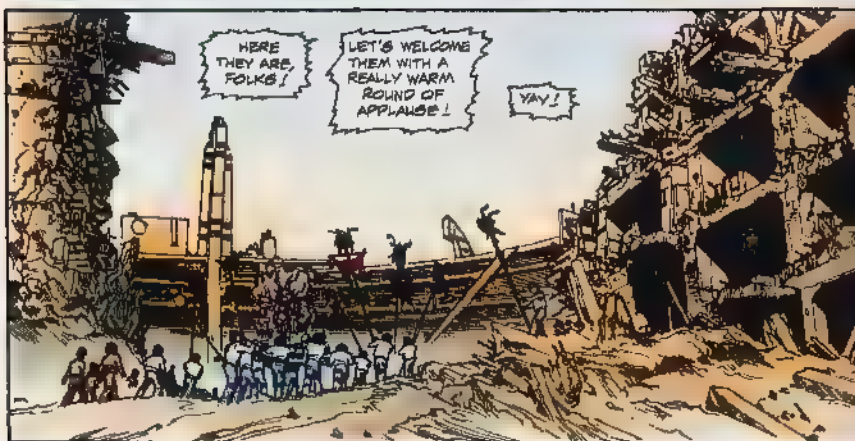


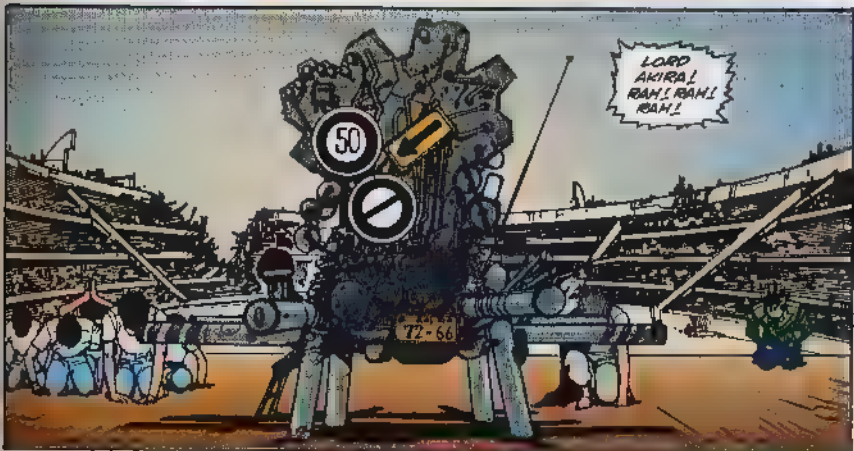
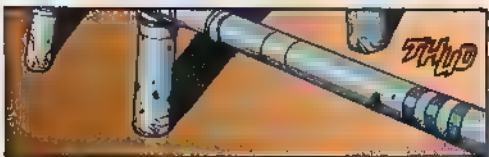
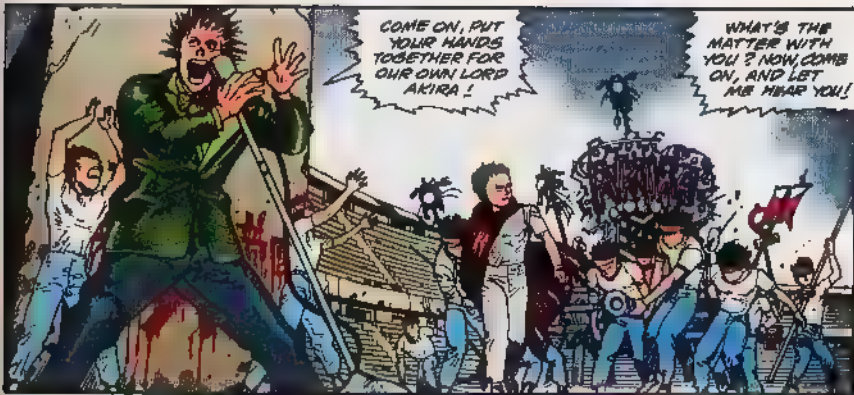












SHIFF SHIFF

IT'S
PRIORITY
ONE, SIR!

ADMIRAL,
WE'RE
RECEIVING
A MESSAGE!

THEY NEED
YOU IN THE
INFIRMARY!



!

I WAS
NOTIFIED
THAT DR. GEORGE
HOOK IS IN
CRITICAL
CONDITION!

HAS THERE
BEEN ANY
IMPROVEMENT?

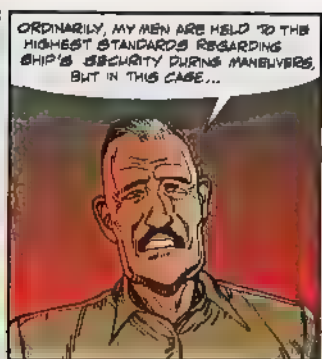
I...

...UNDERSTAND THEY'RE
TRYING TO SET THE
BROKEN RIBS NOW, AS
FOR THE REST...



I DEEPLY
REGRET THIS
INCIDENT.

?



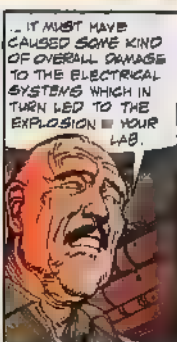
ORDINARILY, MY MEN ARE HELD TO THE
HIGHEST STANDARDS REGARDING
SHIP'S SECURITY DURING MANEUVERS,
BUT IN THIS CASE...



BUT
MR. HOOK
IS --!



ON A CARRIER THIS LARGE
AND COMPLEX, ONCE THE
ACCIDENT ON THE FLIGHT
DECK HAD OCCURRED...



...IT MUST HAVE
CAUSED SOME KIND
OF OVERALL DAMAGE
TO THE ELECTRICAL
SYSTEMS WHICH IN
TURN LED TO THE
EXPLOSION IN YOUR
LAB.



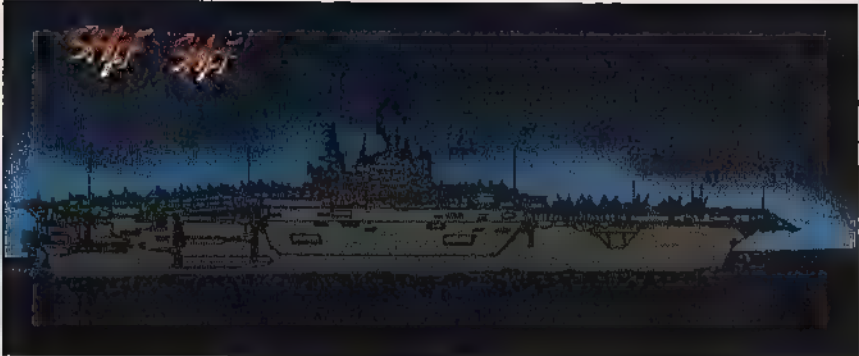
YOU'RE WRONG,
ADMIRAL! DIDN'T
YOU READ OUR
REPORT?



WHEN YOU'RE SEEING THINGS MORE
CLEARLY, I'M SURE YOU'LL REALIZE IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO HAVE
SLIPPED ABOARD WITHOUT OUR RADAR
DETECTING HIM!



NOW, NOW... YOU'VE
ALL BEEN UNDER A
GREAT DEAL OF
STRESS.





GET YOUR FOOD HERE!
GOOD, HOT FOOD HERE,
FOR EVERYONE!

PLAY
SOME DANCE
MUSIC!

HE
HEALED
OUR PAIN!

BOOO!

GIVE
IT UP,
YOU
DORK!

YOUR
PLY'S
OPEN!

THEN WE SAW A LIGHT!

HE SHOWED
THE WAY!

WOO-OO-OO-OON BECAUSE
HE IS...

GIVE PRAISE
TO MIGHTY
LORD AKIRA!

LORD
AKIRA!

DROP DEAD!

BANZAI!

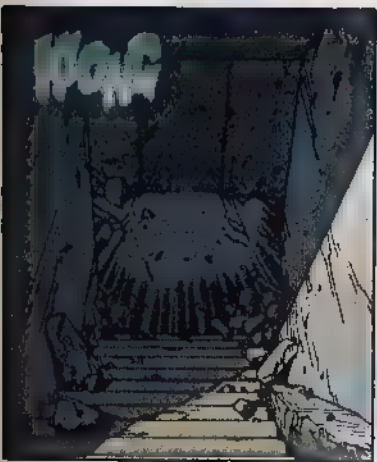
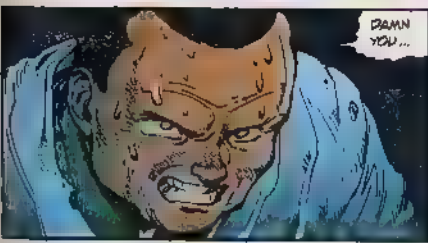
MOORAY!

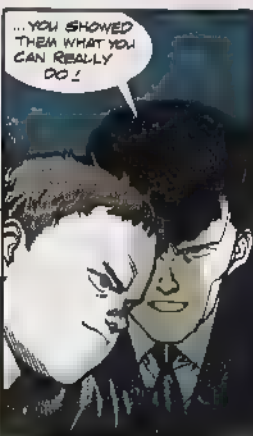
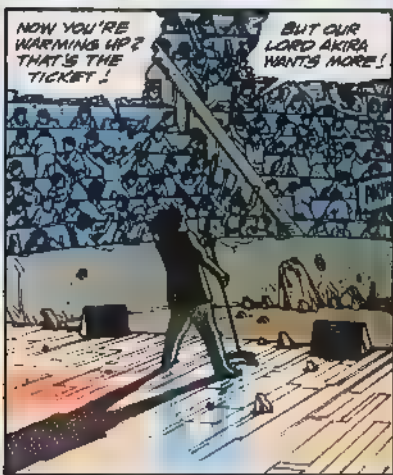
BOO!

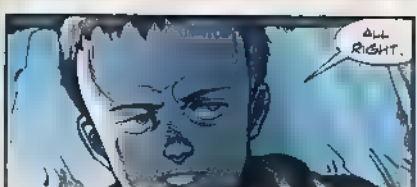
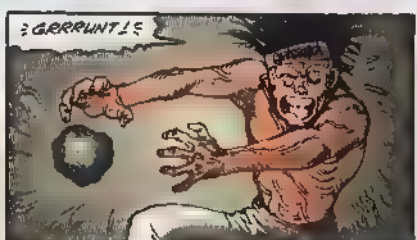
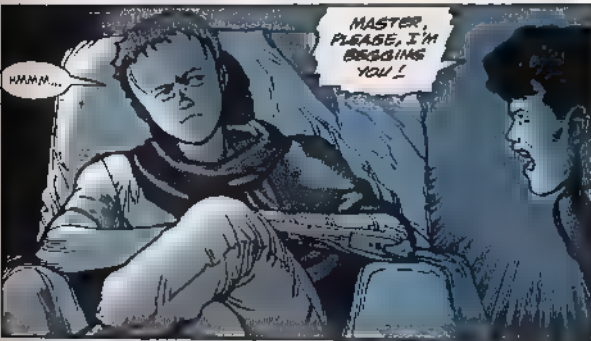
OVER
HERE!

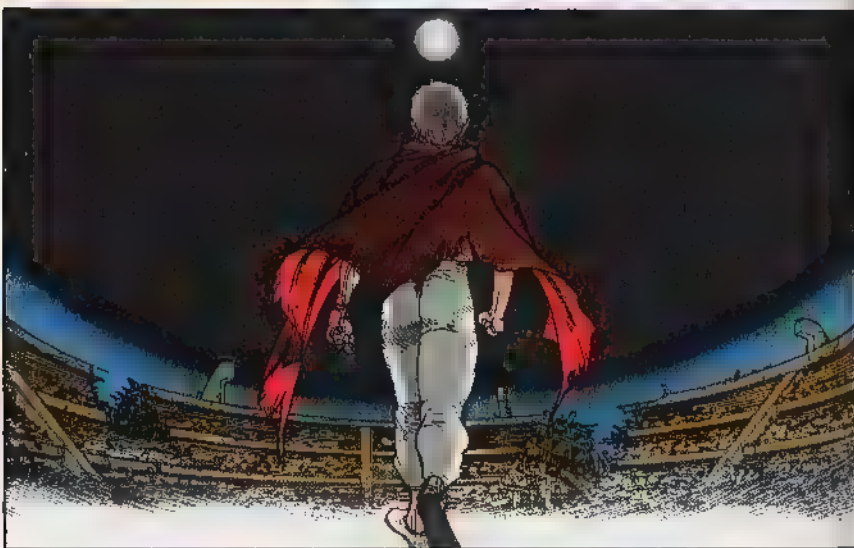
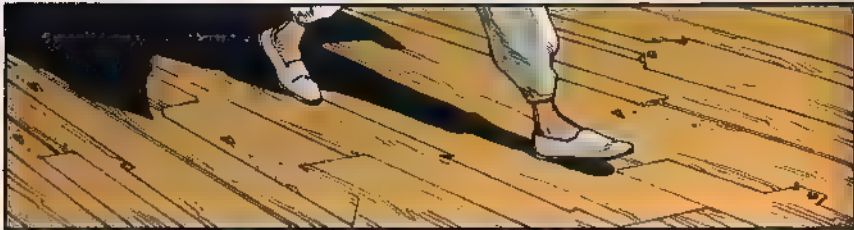
YAAAY!

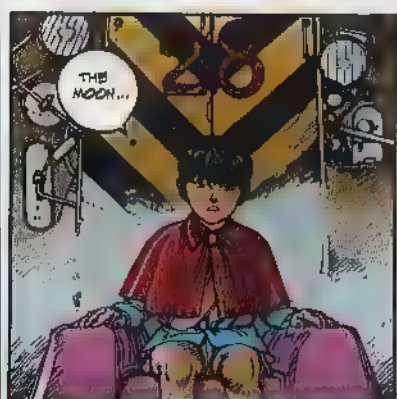
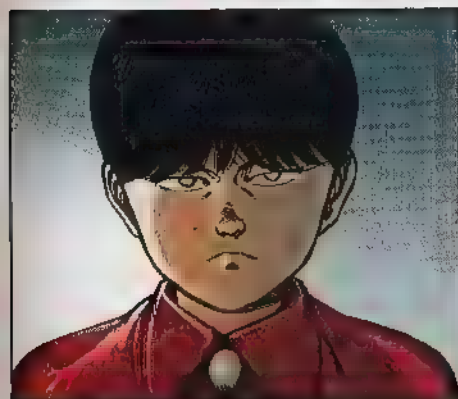
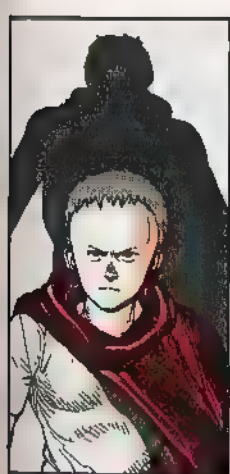
OUR
GREAT
LORD!

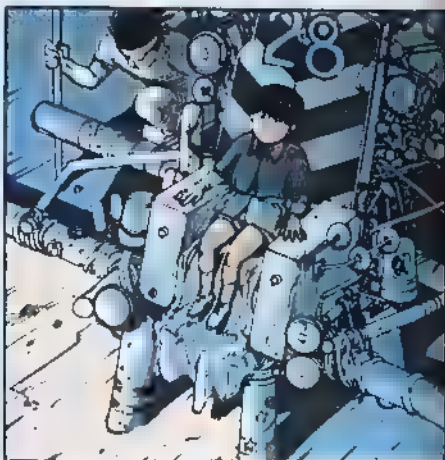
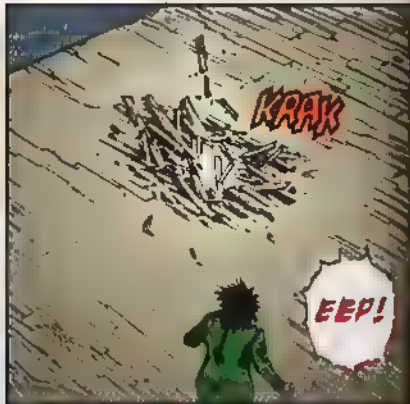
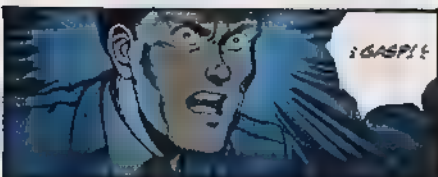


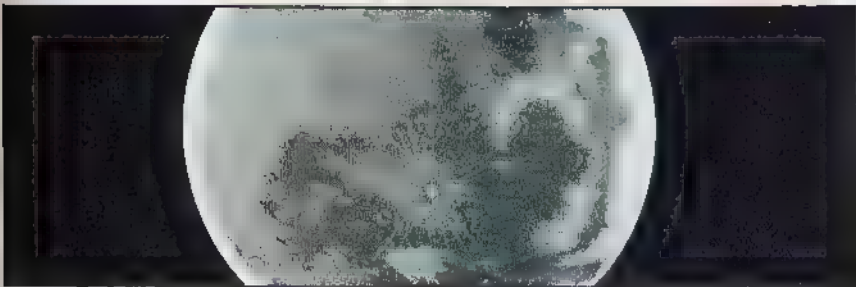




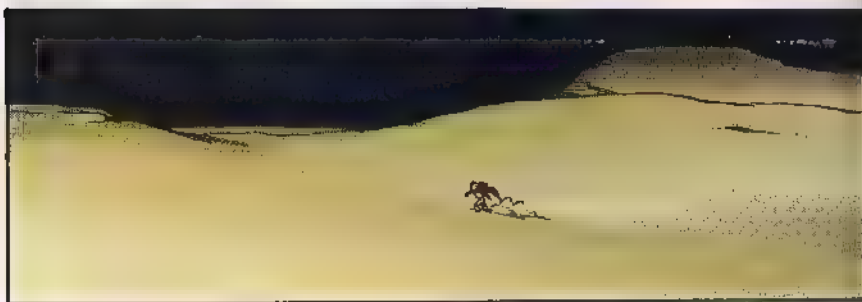
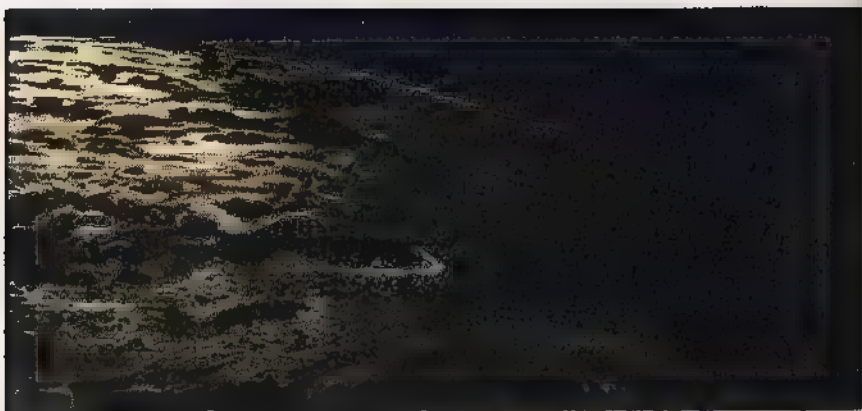


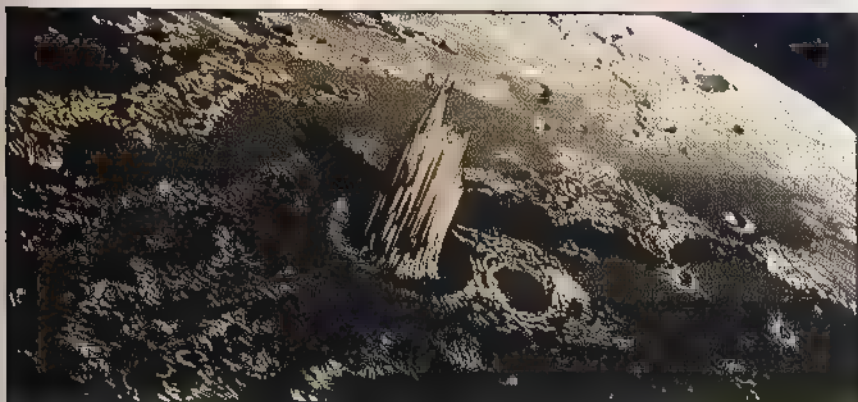
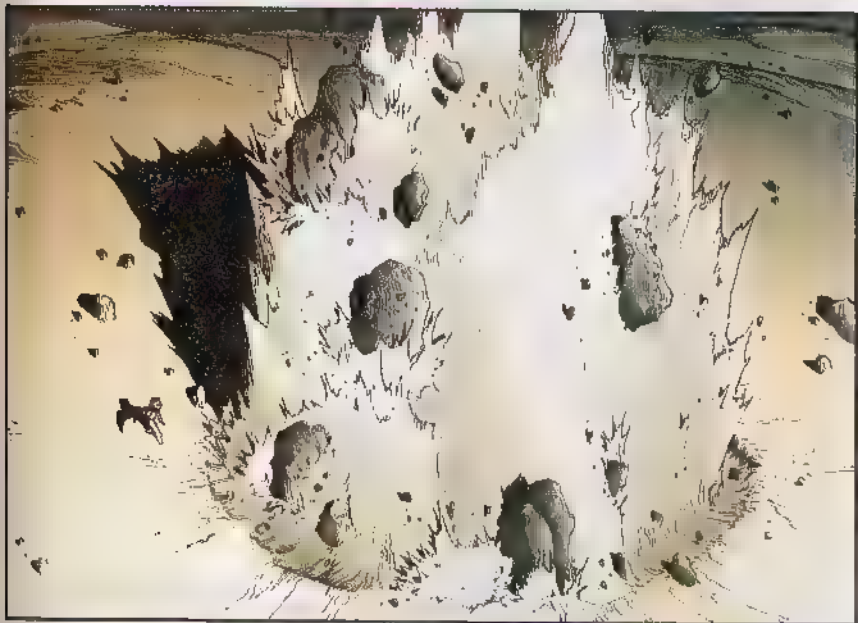


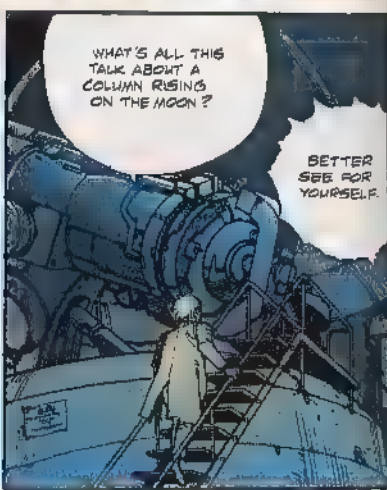
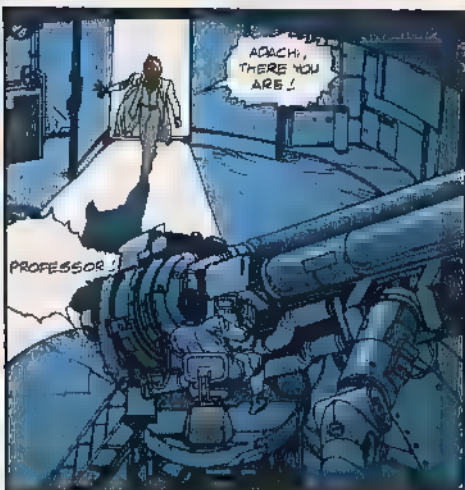
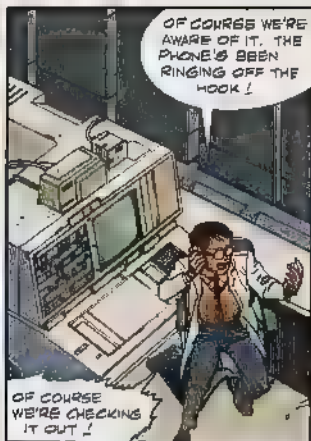


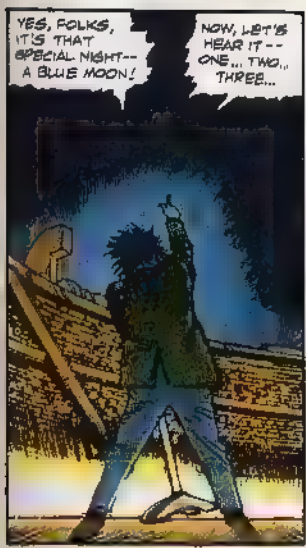


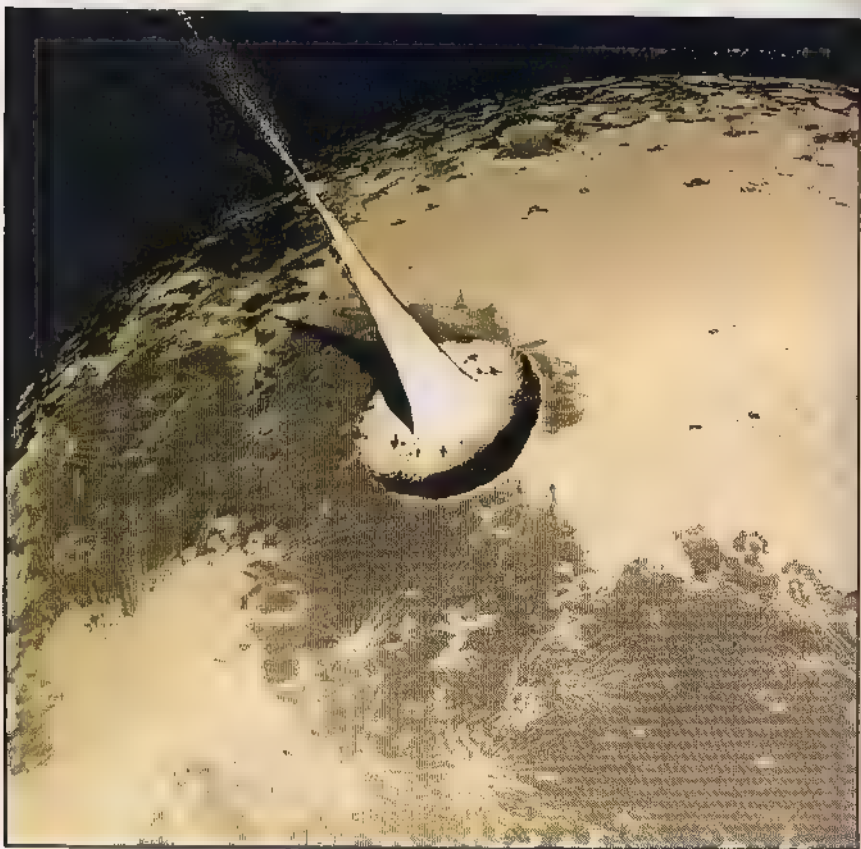
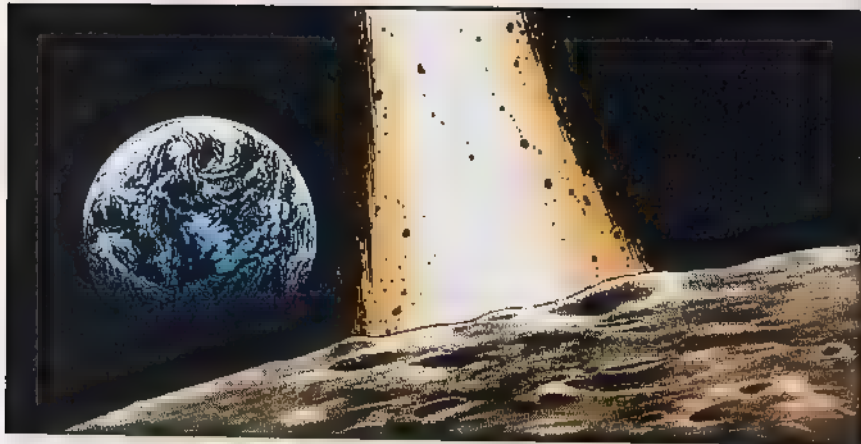




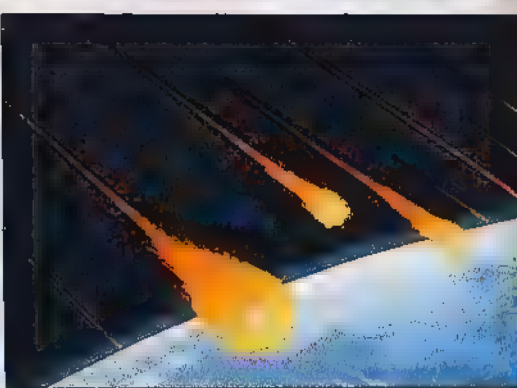
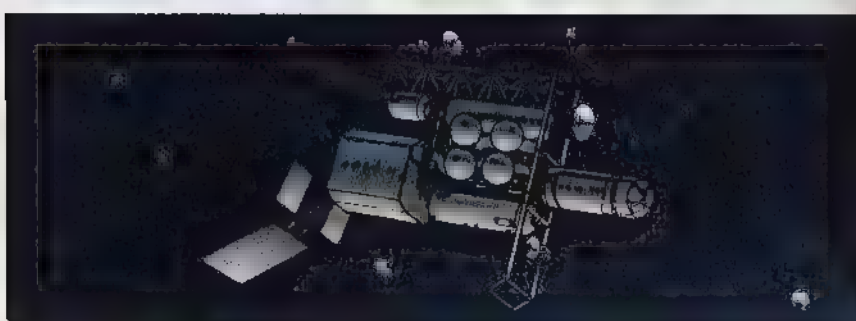
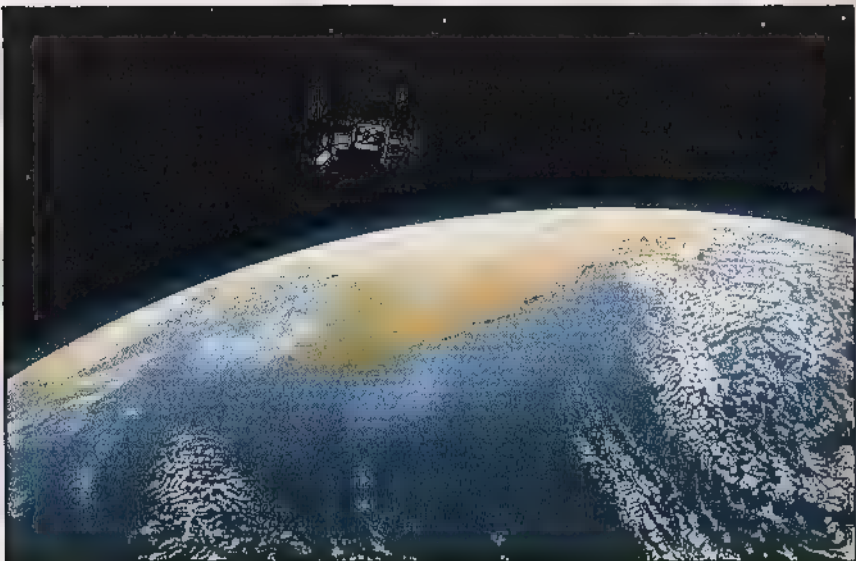


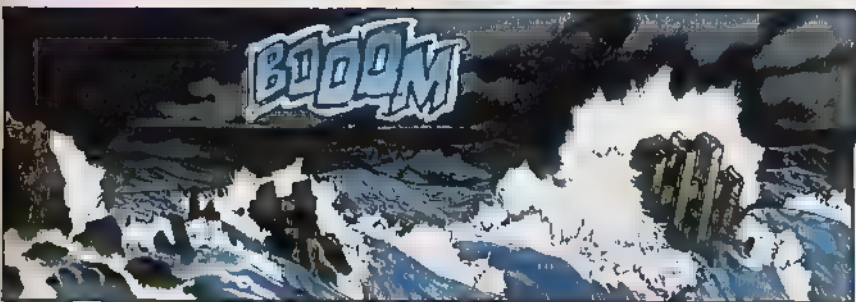


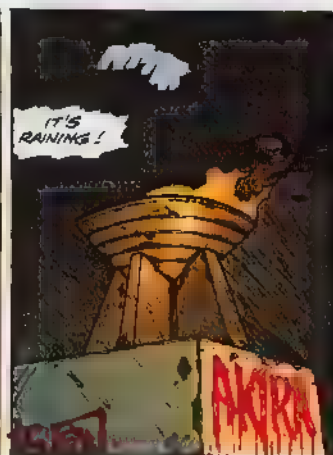
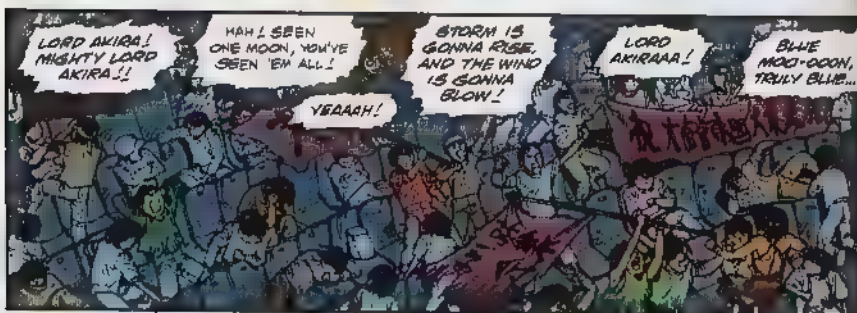
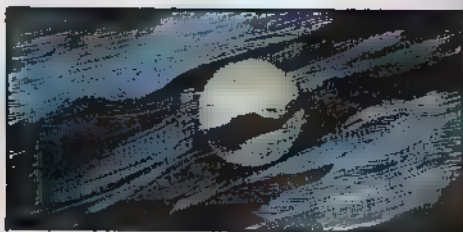


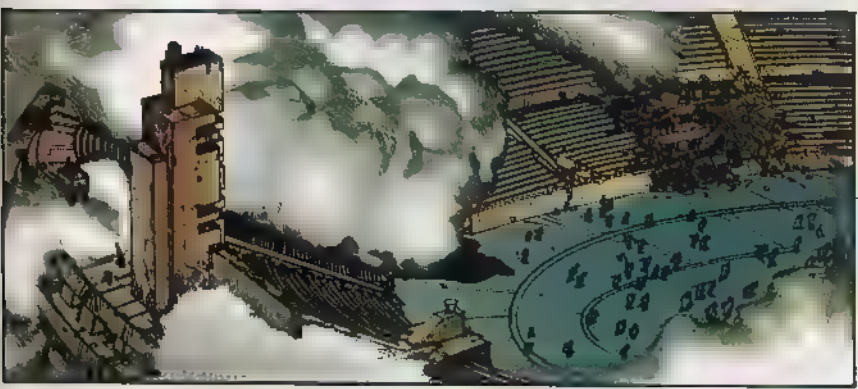
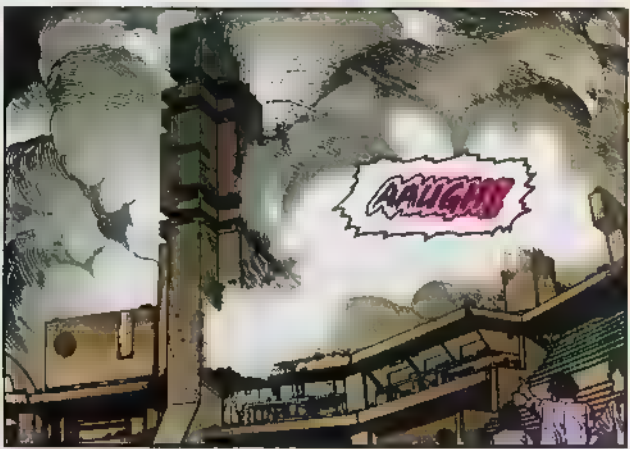


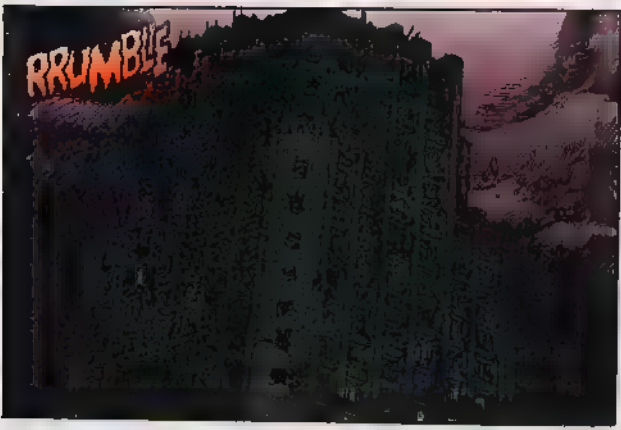
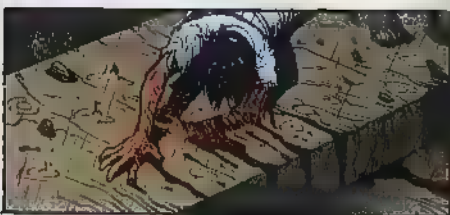
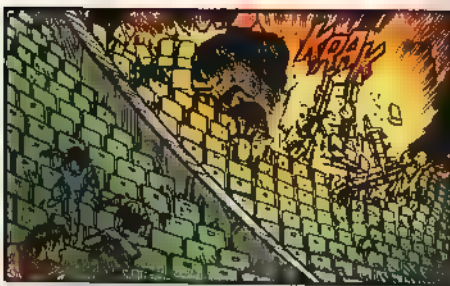
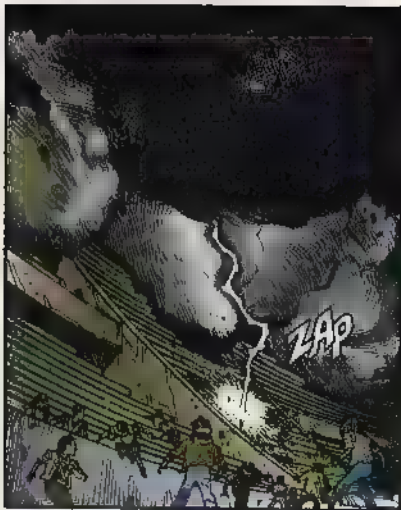


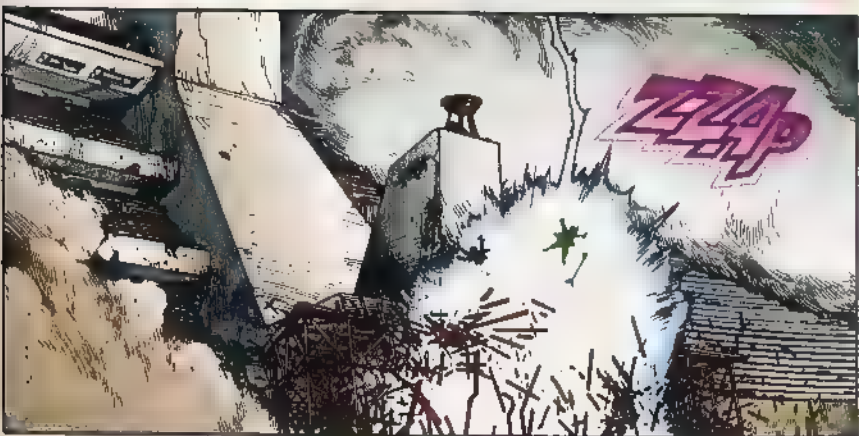
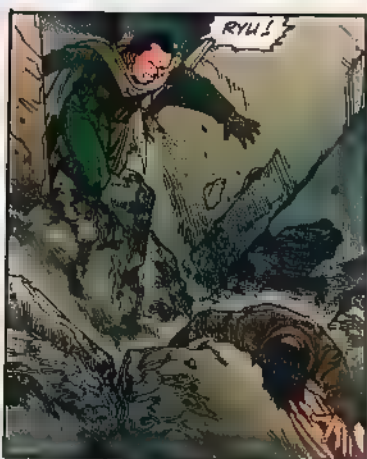












NEXT ISSUE: **SWEPT AWAY**



OTOMO VISITS NEW YORK

Katsuhiro Otomo conducted his first ever book signing at **Forbidden Planet**, New York on October 20, 1990. He signed comics, movie cels, posters, and other **Akira**-related materials for a half an hour.

Otomo was in town for the New York premiere of **Akira** the animated movie, and also met with the Epic staff to discuss current **Akira** work and plans for possible future collaborations. Above, Otomo meets with Jo Duffy, the writer of the English adaptation of **Akira**.

AKIRA: the movie **AN UPDATE**

Since its U.S. release over a year ago, **Akira** has enjoyed success beyond all anticipation at box offices across the country. Though its first run ended last summer in most cities, **Akira** will be returning to New York in March as part of a Japanese film festival at the **Film Forum**, where it set a theater record for the number of weeks held over last fall.

Meanwhile, in response to overwhelming public demand, **Streamline Pictures** released the English-speaking version of **Akira** on video tape on February 12 of this year. The tape will not be available in video stores, but may be obtained directly through comic book stores or mail order. Information about the video tape and animation cels is available from **STREAMLINE PICTURES, P.O. BOX 691418, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069.**

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YASUMITSU SUZUKI

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SATOSHI TAKAHATA

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HIROSHI HIRATA

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Production Office

MAURIE JAVINS

Editor

MADE McLAURIN

Editor

CARL POTTS

Production Office

The Great Tokyo Empire under Emperor Akira plans a grand convocation, a festive gala to be attended by one and all — for there's plenty to celebrate in Neo-Tokyo this day. Starvation in the ruins. The winds of war between the forces of the Emperor and Lady Miyako. The threat of a super power attack with bio-chemical weapons. And Tetsuo toying with the very fabric of the cosmos itself. Rejoice, indeed . . . for tomorrow may be even worse . . .

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



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